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## TEXAS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

### House Membership

### Representative Tommy Merritt



### Biographical Information

Representative Tommy Merritt is a native of Kilgore. He attended Kilgore College and graduated from Texas Christian University in Fort Worth with a bachelor of business administration. With his talent for growing and prospering small businesses, he founded Gregg Industrial Insulators, Inc. in 1976. He and his wife Janet have been married for 36 years and have three children, Missy, Meredith, and Thomas. The Merritts attend the First Baptist Church in Longview and in Kilgore.

Representative Merritt was elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1996. Currently, he is Chairman of the House Committee on Public Safety and serves on the Transportation, Local & Consent Calendars & Redistricting committees. In past sessions, he has served on the House Committees on Energy Resources, State Recreational Resources, State Affairs, Border Affairs & International Relations, and Defense & State-Federal Relations. House District 7 encompasses Gregg County and the northern portion of Smith County to include Lindale, Winona, and Hide-away Lake.

At the close of the 76th legislative session, Representative Merritt received the prestigious G.J. Sutton award from the Legislative Black Caucus. Rep. Merritt was the first Republican House member to receive the award in two decades. In 2006, the Representative twice received the Freedom to Teach award from the Association of Texas Professional Educators. In 2007, he was named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International.

Representative Merritt was elected and served as a director to the Gregg County Appraisal Board from 1986 to 1993. He was appointed to the Sabine River Authority by Governor Clements in 1990 and concluded his term in 1995.

He is a friend of law enforcement and from 1971 to 1974, served the United States Postal Service as a Postal Inspector. In 1984, he traveled with the Council for a Secure America to Israel to gain a better understanding of terrorism and how the Israelis combat it.

Representative Merritt was selected by President Bush to serve, as the only elected official from Texas on the Bush-Cheney Presidential transition energy advisory team. He has been a member of the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission since his 1996 appointment by Governor Bush.

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